



# Press Release

## New England Laborers' /Cranston Public Schools Construction & Career Academy Awarded Prestigious Technology Grant

**Cranston, January 18, 2012:** The New England Laborers' /Cranston Public Schools Construction & Career Academy is proud to announce that our school has been awarded \$78,000 by the Champlin Foundations to purchase technology and equipment that will advance interactive learning in the classroom. More than thirty public high schools throughout Rhode Island competed for the grant with eight finalists in the second round and six recipients being awarded.

Co-Founder of the Academy and General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manger of the Laborers' International Union of North America, Armand E. Sabitoni was elated by the announcement: "Throughout the years we have learned that in the construction industry technology is always advancing. By consistently striving to bring the latest in technology to the New England Laborers' / Cranston Public School Construction & Career Academy we seek to keep our students engaged in the process of lifelong learning. The Champlin Foundations have been a wonderful partner to many schools in Rhode Island and we are pleased and proud to have been chosen to receive this grant. It reaffirms our belief that our school is providing an excellent educational opportunity for all our students."

"Ours is a very rigorous and competitive application process that includes site visits, follow up proposals, interviews and questions," said Keith Lang, Executive Director of the Champlin Foundations. He added, "We were extremely impressed with the way in which in the New England Laborers' /Cranston Public Schools Construction Career Academy teaches and empowers students with real world skill sets directly related to the workplace. This technology will prepare them for success when they enter Rhode Island's workforce during their high school career and upon graduation."

Dennis Curran, Executive Director of the school remarked: "I am thrilled we were awarded this grant which will greatly enhance classroom learning and further advance our school's hands-on, problem based methodology already in place. It will provide our teachers with the most highly advanced software available – right at their fingertips. We know that students learn best when they are engaged and this new system will allow them to learn in one of the most interactive modes possible on a daily basis."

Michael A. Traficante, Chairman of the NEL/CPS Board of Directors: "Our administrators, teachers and staff worked very hard and did a remarkable job in securing this grant. The Champlin Foundations recognized our huge success in job readiness and job placement for our students. This grant will continue to assist us in our mission and we are grateful for the Champlin Foundations generous support."

Every classroom will now have a projector-based system in place aided by a new computer desktop for each teacher to administer lesson plans. It will allow teachers to collaborate with students in a very visual and interactive way. Teachers will be able to open files, applications, websites and multimedia as student-participants contribute in real time. The software will also be utilized in the Charter School's Virtual Learning Laboratory and Adult Education Program. The grant will also allow the school to upgrade its video production equipment and technology, allowing live, daily video announcements to be made and seen throughout the school and in every classroom.

The Champlin Foundations were started by the descendents of Stanton Browning Champlin who opened a Rhode Island jewelry factory in 1872. As the family grew, so did their business investments and an industrial empire was born. The family began their philanthropic pursuits in 1932 with the first Champlin Foundation. Since that time the Champlin Foundations have given over \$460 million dollars to non-profits primarily in Rhode Island.

For more information call: Mr. Dennis Curran, Executive Director at 401.270.8692